8.

AN ACCOUNT

Of the Late

Great Victory,

Obtained at Sea, against the

FRENCH:

By their Majesties Fleet, Commanded in Chief by Admiral *Russell*; and the *Dutch* Commanded by Admiral *Allemond*, near the Cape of *Barsleur* in *May* 1692.

LONDON,
Printed for *John Rawlins* at the *Anchor* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard, 1692.

coll. 33
4/1 '19

THE

PREFACE.

BY the enſuing relation, it will appear that France which was not until of late, accounted amongſt the Nations, that were conſiderable for their Maritime ſtrength, was at laſt become not leſs formidable at Sea than Land; and how great it has been on the Continent is too well known by the Mighty acquiſitions that Crown has made in one Age, that France it ſelf is almoſt loſt in the midſt of that vaſt Empire which it is now become, by moſt unjuſtly wreſting from all the Neighbouring Princes; But the full Force was never known untill theſe laſt three Years, in which it has made head againſt almoſt all the Chriſtian World, and for the moſt part, rather gained than loſt of thoſe Princes, and States in War with her: From whence it is Obvious in what condition the reſt of Europe had been in, but for the powerfull oppoſition England has made, being influenced by their Heroick King, which ſufficiently ſhews the

Neceſſity there was for the late Revolution. For from that time may Lewis *the Fourteenth date the deſtruction of his Project, and the reſt of* Europe *their Enlargement from the Slavery he deſigned, and prepared for them, for whatever turns like Fortune he may have, they will rather ſeem, than really be the effects of Strength, for nothing is plainer than that* France *has been at the Zenith of its Greatneſs, and now in the Declenſion may ſtrugle ſometimes, and do ſome miſchief, but never recover power enough to repair the Structure he was forming. The Victory their Majeſties Fleet has obtained, having ſo ſhooke that Monarchy, that not their Alpes, nor Barrier in* Flanders *can ſecure* France *from being pierced to the Heart. Another way being now opend which a few months will plainly demonſtrate, and which performance I ſhall rather chooſe to write after, than the Predictions now. I ſhall therefore proceed to relate ſome particulars of this great Conqueſt, which is like yet to be much greater in the Conſequence.*

AN ACCOUNT Of the LATE ENGAGEMENT, &c.

THE Power of *France* was ſo much encreas'd in Shipping under the Reign of their Preſent King, that it has not been an Imaginary hopes which the *French*, and their Friends in *England* Conceiv'd, that they might make themſelves Maſters at Sea, eſpecially after they had in the Year Ninety, made ſome Experiment of their Strength, which, if they had been able to Effect this Preſent Year, they had provided themſelves of Forces, Artillery, and Ammunition, upon the Coaſts of *Normandy*, to have Embarkt on Tranſport Ships for that Purpoſe, to have made a deſcent on *England*, under pretence of reſtoring the Late King *James*. The *French* promis'd themſelves ſuch aſſur'd Succeſs in this Deſign, that they acted with an unuſual Freedom, openly declaring their Intentions, (it being well known, that whatever advantages they have obtain'd

for the time paſt; Treachery, or Secrecy, at leaſt were the means whereby they Compaſſed them) and that their Actions might accompany their great Words, with indefatigable Induſtry they work'd on their Fleet at *Breſt*, and on the 12th. of *May* (their Stile) the Count *de Tourville* ſet Sail out of the Road of *Bertaume*, for the Coaſts of *England*. The *French* Endeavours were not Confined only to their Port of *Breſt*; but at *Thoulon* alſo they had equipt 16 large Ships to bring round out of the *Mediterranean* to joyn the reſt, but the difficulties they met with had prevented their haſte, and they had not Patience to expect their Coming, but put to Sea with what Strength they had, their Party in *England* having given them repeated Aſſurances, that the *Engliſh* Preparations were very backward, having as yet but few Ships at Sea, and thoſe ſmall, and weakly Mann'd, that the Capital Men of War would not get out until the end of *May* at the ſooneſt, the *Dutch* Squadron were not yet joyn'd, nor ready, and that it was poſſible to get between what were already out, and the other, and prevent their ever coming together, and by theſe means deſtroy both.

But as an Earneſt of their other Succeſſes, they had News that the Count *d'Eſtree* with the *Thoulon* Squadron, which at firſt conſiſted of 16 great Men of War, 6 Fireſhips, and 3 Galliots, had on the 18th. of *April*, as he was about to paſs the Streights, fallen into a Storm wherein 2 of his Ships, one of 64, the other of 70 Guns, run aſhore on the Coaſt of *Barbary* near *Ceuta*, where 250 Men were drown'd, and about 500 more made Priſoners by the *Spaniards*, beſides theſe loſt, ſeveral others were ſeparated.

Not-

Notwithſtanding this ill Accident to the *French*, Monſieur *Tourville* on the 10 of *May* appear'd near *Dartmouth*, with about 100 Sail of all Sorts, but the Wind being Eaſterly in the Evening, he ſtood off towards their own Coaſts; the *Engliſh* Fleet which was then out, under the Command of Sir *Ralph Delaval*, and Rear-Admiral *Carter*, was about St. *Helen's*; on the 12th. Vice-Admiral *Callenburge*, and Rear Admiral *Evertzen*, with 9 or 10 great *Dutch* Ships paſs'd by *Deal*, and ſailed Weſtward, and on the 13th. the Wind ſtill Favouring, another *Dutch* Man of War ſailed after them, and on *Thurſday*, the 12th. in the Afternoon, Admiral *Ruſſel* weigh'd out of *Rye-Bay*, and about 11 a Clock on *Friday* Morning joyn'd the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, at which time the whole Fleet conſiſted of about 90 Sail for the Line of Battle; on the ſame Day Admiral *Ruſſel* acquainted the Officers that he had receiv'd a Letter from the Earl of *Nottingham* by Her Majeſty's Command, wherein he ſignified that Her Majeſty had been inform'd, that a Scandalous Report had been ſpread abroad, as if ſome of the Officers of the Fleet were diſaffected to their Majeſty's Service, and that her Majeſty had order'd the Diſcharge of ſeveral of them, but that Her Majeſty was aſſured this Diſcourſe was raiſed Maliciouſly by the Enemies of the Government, and that Her Majeſty was ſo well pleaſed, and ſatisfied with their Zeal and Service to their Majeſties, and the Defence of their Country, that ſhe had reſolved not to diſplace any one of them. As ſoon as this was made known to them by the Admiral, they made and ſent up an Addreſs, which was the next Day preſented to the Queen by the Lord's Commiſſioners of the Admiralty. And was in theſe following Words.

The Addreſs.

WE E Your Majeſties moſt Loyal Subjects, and Servants, Flagg Officers, and Captains in your Majeſties Fleet, out of the deep and grateful ſenſe we have of your Majeſties good, and juſt opinion of our Loyalty, and Fidelity, imparted to us by the Right Honourable Admiral Ruſſel, *in a Letter to him from my Lord* Nottingham, *do in behalf of our ſelves, and all the other Officers and Seamen, humbly preſume to Addreſs our ſelves to your Majeſty at this Juncture, to undeceive the World in thoſe falſe and malicious reports, that have been lately ſpread in prejudice of your Majeſties Service, by People of unreaſonable diſaffection to your Majeſties Government; and an obſtinate Averſion to the quiet, and good of our Country: That there are ſome amongſt us that are not truly Zealous, for, and entirely devoted to your Majeſties Service. We do therefore moſt humbly beg your Majeſties leave to add to our repeated Oaths, this Aſſurance of our Fidelity. That we will with all imaginable Alacrity, and Reſolution, venture our Lives in the Defence of your Majeſties undoubted Rights, and the Liberty, and Religion of our Country; againſt all Foreign, and Popiſh Invaders whatſoever. And that God Almighty may preſerve your Majeſties moſt ſacred Perſon, direct your Councels, and proſper your Arms by Sea and Land againſt your Majeſties Enemies, let all the People ſay* Amen, *with your Majeſties moſt Dutiful, and Loyal Subjects.*

Dated on board the *Britannia*, this 15th. Day of *May*, 1692.

This

This Addreſs was Signed by Sir *John Aſhby*, Admiral of the Blew, Sir *Ralph Delaval*, Vice-Admiral of the Red, Mr. *Rooke*, Vice-Admiral of the Blew, Sir *Cloufley Shovel* Rear-Admiral of the Red, Mr. *Carter* Rear-Admiral of the Blue, and the other Commanders of Their Majeſties Fleet, and Her Majeſty received it very Graciouſly, being pleaſed to ſay,

That She always had this Opinion of the Commanders; but was very glad this was come to ſatisfie others.

The day before this Addreſs was formed, the *French* Fleet was ſeen off of the *Start point* near *Dartmouth*, and her Majeſty was aſſured that the *Rochfort* Squadron under the Command of the Sieur *De Vilette*, had joined the Count *de Tourville*; but that the *Thoulon* Squadron was not as yet arrived at *Breſt*. And Admiral *Ruſſel* on the 17*th*. Sailed with the whole Fleet *Engliſh*, and *Dutch* to the *Weſtward*, having a fair Wind; and here it may be obſerved, that from the time the *French* put to Sea until this time, the Wind proved *Eaſterly*, or to the *North*; and that there had not been ſix hours of *Southerly*, or *Weſterly* Winds which are ſo frequent, more eſpecially at this time of the Year: Or elſe in all probability that part of the Fleet which was firſt at Sea, was in danger to have fallen under the power of the *French*.

The *French* King had moſt certainly given poſitive Orders to his Admiral to attack the *Engliſh*, and *Dutch* Fleet, when, and where ever he met them; his Reaſons for ſo peremptory a Command, conſidering how carefully *France* has managed it ſelf during the whole War, both

both at Sea and Land, has occaſioned the moſt curious obſervers to enquire very carefully into the Cauſe, and has produced very different Opinions concerning the ſame; with ſome of which I ſhall acquaint you (*viz.*) That the War bore ſo very hard upon him that he lay under a neceſſity to make uſe of his utmoſt Efforts to end it; which a great Victory at Sea would have Contributed much to, and that if he was defeated the loſs could be ſcarce heavier to him, than the vaſt Charge of maintaining ſuch a Fleet at that extream Ebb the War has reduced him to: But this being a Notion taken up by Men of too fine Speculation, I ſhall wave repeating any more of it; but proceed to ſome other more believed, and more probable Reaſons; which are, that Monſieur *Pontchartain*, his intendant General for Maritime Affairs, or his Agents, had recourſe to the old *French* method of Bribery. And had made ſuch offers of Money to ſome that had Command in the *Engliſh* Fleet, that they making it known had leave to accept the Money, and were only exhorted to perform their duty to Their Majeſties, and their Country, or whether the *Jacobite* party in *England*, after having told ſo many lyes of their own ſtrength, and the general Inclination of the People to return to their former Slavery, had alſo brought themſelves to believe; that the Officers of the Fleet would revolt, and had impoſed the ſame upon the *French* King for Truth, or whether they had aſſured him their weakneſs, or Cowardice was ſuch, that they were eaſily overcome; one of theſe it's generally believed haſtned the *French* to Sea, and upon the *Engliſh* Coaſt, and whichſoever it was, tho' no thanks are due to ſuch as would betray their Country, yet more advantages have happened

pened by this Advice and Intelligence, to this Nation than ever ſo inconſiderable a party for Sence, Fortunes, or Courage, could have contributed with all their beſt Intentions, and Services, which makes it evident that there is nothing ſo bad, that at ſometimes is not good for ſomething.

For now on the 19*th*. Their Majeſties Fleet about ſix Leagues from *Cape Barfleur*, got ſight of the *French*, who came down with Wind at *S. W.* upon the *Engliſh*; the firſt News of the Engagement, came from Admiral *Ruſſel*'s own Hand to my Lord *Nottingham*; which I ſhall recite *Verbatim*, being as brief, as it is an exact account of the firſt days Action.

A Copy of Admiral *Ruſſel*'s Letter.

YEſterday about Three in the Morning, Cape Barfleur *bearing* S. W. *and by* S. *diſtance Seven Leagues, my Scouts made the Signal for ſeeing the Enemy, the Wind* Weſterly; *The* French *bore down to me, and at Eleven Engaged me, but at ſome diſtance; we continued Fighting till half an hour paſt Five in the Evening, at which time the Enemy Towed away with all their Boats, and we after them. It was calm all day; about ſix, there was a freſh Engagement to the* Weſtward *of me, which I ſuppoſed to be the Blue. It continued Calm all Night. I can give no particular account of things, but that the* French *were beaten: And I am now Steering away for* Conquet Road, *having a freſh gale* Eaſterly; *but extream Foggy: I ſuppoſe that is the place they deſign for; if it pleaſe God to ſend us a little*

little clear weather, I doubt not but we ſhall deſtroy their whole Fleet. I ſaw in the Night three or four Ships on Fire, but I know not what they are, ſo ſoon as I can give you a more particular relation, I ſhall not be wanting.

May the 20th. 1692. *Cape Barfleur, S. W.* diſtance 7 Leagues.

This Letter was ſent from the Admiral by the Commander of the *Mary Galley* to *Portsmouth*; who brought a further account (*viz.*) That at Eight a Clock on *Friday* Morning, being the 20th. of *May*; he left the Fleet at *S.* and by *W.* about Fifteen Leagues diſtance off of the Iſle of *Wight*, that he ſaw the Seconds of two of the *French* Admirals ſink, and many Ships on Fire; that the Sea was full of Wrecks of Ships for two Leagues together; but that he knew not, that any of Their Majeſties Ships were loſt: That the *French* run, and ours purſued them; and on the one twentieth we heard from *Portsmouth*, that Their Majeſties Ship the *Montague* came in diſabled, and Captain *Foulk* the Commander confirmed the News of the *French* being beaten; that the *Engliſh* were in purſuit of them at Nine in the Morning the day before; which was the time he left the Fleet: and further ſaid that Admiral *Carter* was Killed, who was Rear Admiral of the Blue, his Death was the only allay to all this good News, being generally lamented both at Sea and Land; he was a very brave Officer, and Faithful to Their Majeſties Service; and his Memory will Live and ſerve for an Example to Encourage others, for the Honour he had obtained was for his Gallantry, having riſen from a much lower Capacity.

Captain

Captain *Killingworth* Commander of the the *Fox* Fireſhip, came alſo to *Portſmouth* in his Boat, and Confirmed the foregoing Account, and further added, that he had burnt his Fireſhip on Board a *French* Rear-Admiral, but was put off with great Difficulty, that he ſaw a *French* Man of War of about 70 Guns blow up, and another 3 Deck'd Ship on Fire.

Thus every day produced ſeveral freſh Advices of the happy ſucceſs of their Majeſty's Arms, and more were expected, for Victory was not doubted from ſuch a Fleet, ſo Commanded; for Admiral Ruſſel before the Engagement, went on Board all the Men of War, to animate both Officers and Sea-men, aſſuring them he had no diſtruſt that they wanted Courage or Loyalty, and for his own Part, if he failed in his Duty, he deſired that they would not ſpare to throw him Over-board, and as he propoſed himſelf the Pattern they ſhould follow, ſo if any ſuch were found that neglected to imitate him, they ſhould be made ſevere Examples. Although this might be of excellent uſe, yet all the Commanders left us without Knowledge, whether it would have been wanting, every one ſtriving to excel.

On *Saturday* the 21ſt. of *May*, the Queen receiv'd by Expreſs, that by the former days Action the *French* Fleet was ſo diminiſhed, that their Number was reduced to Thirty Six, which were ſeen to the Leeward of us, at about two Leagues Diſtance, the Wind at *E. N. E.* the *Engliſh* Fleet endeavouring to get up with them, and they retiring, and on *Saturday* the 21. the Wind ſerving indifferently both for Eaſtward and Weſtward, the Enemy

 divided:

divided: about 9 that Morning, Admiral *Ruſſel* took his Courſe towards *Barfleur*, having got ſight of ſeveral *French* Ships under the Shoar, and Admiral *Allemonde* with the Admiral of the *Blue*, ſailed to the Weſtward. The *Dutch* Admiral Diſcovered Sixteen *French* Ships, which he ſuppoſed were coming from *France* to joyn their Fleet, and endeavoured to get up with them; in the mean time Sir *John Aſhby* purſued the reſt of their Fleet, who ſtrove in great Confuſion to get into the *Race* of *Orney*. Admiral *Allemonde* loſt Sight of them he purſued in the Night, and believing they had got in amongſt the Rocks thought it not adviſeable to follow them, and ſo ſailed Eaſtward again to join Admiral *Ruſſel*.

On the 22d. in the Forenoon, Sir *Ralph Delaval* Burnt under *Cape de Wyke* near the Shoar, the *Royal Sun*, being the Ship of the Count *deTourville* Admiral of the *French* Fleet, ſhe carry'd 104 Guns; the Admirable commanded by Monſieur *Beaujeau* his Second, that carryed 102 Guns, and the Conquerant of Eighty Guns, with two Friggats, and three Veſſels of leſſer Rank; at this time alſo Admiral *Ruſſel* was in cloſe purſuit of another part of them. The Priſoners of the Ships that Sir *Ralph Delaval* Burnt, Declar'd, that during the Engagement 4 or 5 of their biggeſt Ships were deſtroy'd.

Colonel *Anthony Haſtings* who Commanded the *Sandwich* was kill'd in the Fight, and his Ship diſabled, which was afterwards brought into *Portſmouth* to refit: Captain *Grayden* that Commanded the *Hampton-Court* was Wounded, and his Ship, with the Seven Provinces, one of the *Dutch* Squadron, and one or two more being diſabled were brought

brought into *Portſmouth*, but not one Ship *Engliſh* nor *Dutch* was miſſing. Her Majeſty commanded that Care ſhould be taken that able Chirurgeons ſhould be ſent down to look after the Sick and Wounded Seamen that were brought into *Portſmouth*, belonging to the ſaid Ships, or any other, and that the Hoſpitals in *Southwark* and *Smithfield* might be fitted up to receive them.

Four *French* Ships of Three Decks lay on the back of the *Iſle* of *Weight* very much diſabled, and two *Engliſh* Men of War that were refitted, with two *Dutch* Friggats and a Fire-ſhip, were ordered to go out, and take or deſtroy them.

This Extraordinary Victory which coſt ſo little on our ſide, and ſo much exceeded the expectation of all People, was received by Her Majeſty with a great deal of Moderation, plainly ſhewing that She had no other Joy in it than the ſafety of Her People, and the Intereſt the reſt of Chriſtendom had in their Majeſty's Succeſſes. But the People ſo univerſally diſcovered their Pleaſure in having beaten the *French*, who had ſo ſhamefully ſcandaliz'd the *Engliſh* Nation two Years before, that they knew not ſufficiently how to expreſs themſelves; no other Buſineſs was much talkt off, but Praiſes and Encomiums on the Conduct and Courage of the Admiral, and other Commanders, and for ſeveral Days and Nights, Ringing of Bells and Bonefires, yet ſuch was the Care of the Government, that not a Perſon nor a Houſe was Damnified by the common People of thoſe who were known to wiſh well to the Enemies of this Kingdom, and were reaſonably ſuſpected to have gone further than Wiſhes, to

Contribute towards enſlaving us, and all poſterity to the *French.*

On *Wedneſday* the 25th. in the Evening came Captain *Mees*, Commander of the *Ruby*, a Fourth Rate, with Letters from Sir *Ralph Delaval* to my Lord *Nottingham*, bearing Date the 22d. giving a particular Account of his Burning the Three Ships before mentioned (*viz.* the *Royal Sun*, and his two Seconds, the *Conquerant* and the *Admirable.* The moſt material Paſſages were, that after *Admiral Ruſſel* had given the Signal for the Ships to cut their Cables, Sir *Ralph Delaval* found that the *French* had quitted the *Race* of *Orney*, and that ſome of them ſtood for the *Bay* of *Cherbourg*; he followed them, and ſaw three 3 deck'd Ships, but ſo cloſe to the Shoar, that it was unſafe to follow them further, untill he had inform'd himſelf of the Road, they being within ſhoal Water, and ſounding within Gun-ſhot, they ſtrove to hinder it by continual Firings; ſo to prevent loſs of time, Sir *Ralph Delaval* went on Board the St. *Albans*, and hoiſted his Flag, ordering the *Ruby* and two Fireſhips to attend him, with which he ſtood in, leaving the great Ships without, but coming near, the *French* gauled him ſo extreamly, and finding the Fire-ſhips could not get in, he retreated out of ſhot, and Anchored, and called a Council of War, where it was reſolved to attempt them in the Morningwith all the Third and Fourth Rates, and Fireſhips, but finding that would not doe the Buſineſs, the Water being ſhoal, Sir *Ralph Delaval* order'd Three Fire-ſhips to attempt the burning of them, going himſelf with Barges, and Tenders to take them up, if the Enemies ſhot hinder'd the Deſign. The Service was ſharp, the Enemy firing both from their Ships and

and Fort, yet the Bravery of the Officers and Men, overcame the difficulty, ſo that two of the Fire-ſhips did Execution, burning two of them, the other Fire-ſhip by a Random ſhot was ſet on Fire, being ready to Board the Enemy. The Action was brave beyond Expreſſion, and was earneſtly recommended to Her Majeſty by Admiral *Delaval*, who obſerving the People goe out of the remaining *French* Ship by Boatfulls, he commanded the St. *Albans* and the *Reſerve*, with others to fire at her, believing it would make them quit her, and after ſome time finding no reſiſtance, took all the Boats armed, and went on Board where were a great Number of Men, but no Officers, he took them all out maimed and whole, and ſet her on Fire. Sir *Ralph Delaval* had ſet all the *French* on ſhoar, but that he was told thirty ſail of Ships were ſtanding with him, which afterwards prov'd to be Sir *John Aſhby* and the *Dutch* coming from the Weſtward, by which means all the Priſoners remained on Board, and were very uneaſie to him; from hence they ſailed Eaſtwards towards the *Bay* of *la Hogue*, where it was expected to find 3 or 4 more *French* Ships.

This Action was of very great Conſequence, and as great danger but the Admiral, Sir *Ralph Delaval*, well knew the bravery, and Loyalty of them he Commanded, would ſurmount all difficulties: The Captains of the Fireſhips Names were, Captain *Heath*, who burnt the *Royal Sun*, which was the greateſt Action of all: For that Ship, being the Admiral, made a ſtout Reſiſtance. Captain *Greenway*, burnt the *Conquerant*, which was alſo a brave Enterpriſe: The *Admirable*, was burnt by the Boats, after Captain *Fowlis* his Fireſhip was de-

ſtroyed

ſtroyed by the Enemies Shot; which if he had eſcaped there was no fear of his performing his Orders.

A Captain of a *French* Fireſhip being taken declared, that during the firſt Engagement on the Nineteenth day, Monſieur *Gabaret* Admiral of their Blue, loſt his Ship which carried Ninety Guns, and that four others were burnt, or ſunk at the ſame time, and at the time when the three afore mentioned Ships were burnt, in the Bay of *Cherbourg*, four ſmaller were deſtroyed, and about three hundred of their Men periſhed; what the *Engliſh* could ſave were made Priſoners, and ſome others were not hindred going on Shore.

Whileſt this Gallant Action was Effecting, Admiral *Ruſſel* lay with the remainder of the Fleet before *La Hogue*, having cloſely ſhut up all that were left of the *French* biggeſt Ships; there being Ten three Decks each, beſides others. But about Twenty of their ſmaller Veſſels got away through the *Race* of *Orney*, and made towards their own Harbours: It was impoſſible for the reſt to eſcape the Vigilance of the *Engliſh* Admiral; who had now almoſt finiſhed his Propoſals, in the Letter he ſent to My Lord *Nottingham*, in which he ſays that if it pleaſed God to ſpare him a little clear weather, he doubted not to deſtroy their whole Fleet. And that ſuch weather he had appears by the ſucceſs; and through the whole time it is very Remarkable, that an eſpecial Providence attended their Majeſties juſt undertaking; for from the day the *French* Fleet put firſt to Sea, the Wind was for the moſt part full againſt them, or ſo contrary, that they could never get up to Admiral *Delaval*, and *Carter*, when

when they had the only time to perform any thing, and as ſoon as Admiral *Ruſſel*, and the *Dutch* were joined, a Wind ſerved fair which brought them to their deſtruction, and hindred their Return.

Thursday the 26*th*. came an Account by Letter from Admiral *Ruſſel*, bearing Date the 24*th* of the laſt and greateſt Deſtruction of the *French* Fleet, which I mentioned lay in the *Bay La Hogue*: That on the day before he ſent Admiral *Rooke*, with a Squadron of Ships, and Fire-ſhips, and all the Boats in the Fleet, to burn Thirteen Ships that lay there: And notwithſtanding the continual Firing the *French* made from their Ships, and Platforms (it being at their own Shore) it ſucceeded ſo that ſix three Deck Ships were burnt that Night, but then it becoming dark, and thick weather, the remainder were let alone until the next Morning, at which time the enterprize was renewed; the Enemy were beaten from ſeveral of their own Ships, and the *Engliſh* Seamen took poſſeſſion of them, and turned their own Guns upon them, with which they beat them from their Platforms. This Action cauſed a great ſlaughter of the *French*, for one Ship of Fifty ſix Guns was overſet and utterly loſt, the reſt were all burnt: and now there was not known to be one more of that Fleet at Sea, from which the *French* King and his favourers in *England* derived ſuch hopes, and had coſt him ſo much labour and Treaſure to get together. That that which had been the Work of an Age to Compleat with all the Aſſiſtance *England* had in ſome foregoing Reigns been able to afford him, was in leſs than one Weeks time ſo Shattered, that it's now impoſſible *France* ſhould ever make any Conſiderable Figure on that Element,

ment, either in War, or Trade, ſo that the Hands that raiſed them, have pull'd them down. And their own Dear Friends the *Jacobites*, who have ſo magnified the ſtrength of that now Vincible Monarch, and ſo Contemned that of their Native Country, from which they have, under the Government of Princes (to whom they would render themſelves Obnoxious) received greater Benefits and Advantages than the *French* King's Favourites in *France*. Theſe alſo have Contributed their ſhares by deceiving themſelves firſt, and next their Maſter, for whom they gathered Intelligence; by which means the *French* Fleet was Truſted at Sea, and have given an opportunity to that Admiral and other Commanders (which can never be ſufficiently commended) to obtain a Victory, the greateſt that ever was upon the Ocean, and as great in its Conſequences. For at the loweſt Computation, there have been burnt, and ſunk no leſs than Twenty Eight, or Thirty (the greateſt part being) of the biggeſt Ships not only that the *French* had, but that were in the World, and more than ſeven Years Peace, and all the Hands, and Treaſure he can imploy can build over again, and ſet forth: But of that he will find his account ſhort, being not in view of a proſpect of Peace, nor may it be expected that *England* will fall into ſuch another Lethargy, as to ſuffer themſelves to be Rivalled in a Fleet, that had nothing that rendred them inferiour to us, but the Courage of our Officers, and Seamen.

To the End it may be known what ſtrength the *French Fleet* was compoſed of (without the *Thoulon* Squadron) I ſhall inſert the moſt exact Account that could be obtained thereof (*viz.*)

Eighteen Ships, from upward of Eighty Guns to One hundred and ſix, and Thirty ſix from upwards of Sixty Guns to Eighty, Twelve Ships from Fifty Guns to Sixty, and Seven from thirty to Forty ſix, beſides Twenty four Fire-ſhips, Twenty ſix Frigats, Twenty ſix Pinks, Fourteen Long-boats: The whole of the Men of War being deſigned to be Seventy three, which were to have on board Forty thouſand, Two hundred, Ninety nine Men, and Five thouſand and Nineteen Guns: Beſides theſe, Officers and Volunteers. And in the Fire-ſhips, One hundred, Sixty Guns, and Two hundred and Forty in the Long-boats.

By the foregoing relation it will be found, that whatever part of this Fleet was out; yet the great Ships are very near every one deſtroyed, and the ſmaller ſo diſabled, that ſome will never be repaired; and ſuch that can, will be a work of Time, and when that is done will be very inconſiderable; for 'tis eaſie to determine the ſtrength of ſuch a Fleet, whenas they had that vaſt Addition, and were not able to diſpute with the Force and Bravery of the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*. Beſides, all the loſs of the Seamen is irreparable, the huge number of them that have been cut off by the ſeveral ways of burning, drowning and killing in the time of the Battel, may reaſonably be ſuppoſed to be more in number than remains in Service in the Trade of *France*; and though thoſe may be poſſibly ſpared for their King's Service (for I queſtion not but their Trade is near at an end, their victorious Neighbours will carefully attend the Increaſe of more Seamen by that means) it is plain that the Power

of *France* is in its declenſion at Sea, which is the place *England* had moſt reaſon to fear it; and as 'tis not probable they can ever recover their ſtrength; ſo 'tis poſſible and that by a reaſonable Conjecture, that in a few Months to come, the *French* King will be Maſter of as few Ships as he found at his coming to the Crown.

For ſince the coming away of the News of this laſt deſtruction of their Men of War, we have received advice of burning more than twenty of their Tranſport-Ships, which lay in the Bay of *La Hogue*, and which the Priſoners declare were deſigned for embarking of Men for the intended Invaſion of *England*, the Admiral found ſome Obſtruction in the Execution of this Deſign, from two ſmall Forts that were on the Shore, and their ſmall Shot, which the *French* and *Iriſh* being drawn down from their Camp, made upon our Seamen. But the former Succeſſes, and the Chearfulneſs they undertook this Enterprize with, made all reſiſtance ineffectual, ſo that the Admiral's Commands were as punctually performed, as they were readily obeyed; for not one Ship that lay in all that Bay eſcaped. The Admiral after this, commanded the Admiral of the *Blue* Squadron to ſail towards *Havre de Grace* (and if it was practicable) to ſerve the reſt of the Tranſport-Ships that were in that Harbour in the ſame manner, whilſt himſelf, with the reſt of the Fleet, ſailed towards the Coaſt of *England*; and where on the 26th. he arrived at *Spithead*, and commanded that the 27th. ſhould be obſerved with Publick Prayers and Thankſgivings throughout the Fleet, for the Victory obtained over Their Majeſties Enemies.

On the 30th. of *May* it was credibly reported, that a Perſon of great Quality received a Letter from *Plymouth*, or ſome place near adjoining, that of the four great *French* Ships,

Ships, formerly mentioned to be disabled, and seen off the Isle of *Wight*, three were taken by those refitted at *Portsmouth*, and one sunk. Thus nothing but further Additions to the Victory come from all Parts, and the Reports of the *French* Prisoners confirm their loss greater than we knew, and some material Passages, which we had no other way to be informed of, but from themselves; one of which I shall in this place recite, which is, that the *French* Admiral of the *Blue* Squadron, which was set on Fire the first night of the Engagement, had Mr. *Fitz James* on board, that is Brother to the Duke of *Berwick*; but whether he perished in the Flames, or saved himself by changing his Ship, is not yet certainly known.

The *Dutch*, both Officers and Seamen, showed great forwardness as often as it was their Turn to have the Enemy to engage: But they who had so melancholy a share two years before when they were over-powered by the Enemies superior Force, were now made amends by the *English*, who happened to have the greatest part of this Action upon their own hands, and so gallantly behaved themselves, that they never gave an Opportunity to them to signalize themselves when they had the *French* first to engage (as it appears for the most part the *English* had the Chance of that.) The first Five hours on the 19th. day, the *French* are owned by all that have hitherto given any Account of the Fight, to have pursued the Attack they so briskly begun, with more Resolution and Bravery than ever that Nation were known to fight at Sea before; and had they had any other than such Enemies to deal with, might with great Reason have expected the Advantage. But the two extreme parts of the *English* Fleet, that composed the Line of Battle, not being able to come up

with the *French* to aſſiſt thoſe of their own part, yet knew how to make the beſt Improvement of the Time, which they did; for whilſt Admiral *Ruſſel* engaged the *French* Admiral and another or two, ſingly by himſelf, part of the *Blue* Squadron got the Weather-gage, which the *French* had before from the beginning of the Fight. And as this very much animated the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, ſo it diſpirited the Enemy; they ſoon after towing off Weſt-ward. And thus happily concluding what may materially be expected at Sea both for this Year, and others to come, I will entertain you with a Copy of a Letter from an Officer in the Fleet to his Friend in *London*; which is in theſe Words.

Upon

UPON the opening of the Day in the Nineteenth in the Morning, we were Alarm'd by our Scouts from the Windward of the approach of the French Fleet, which occaſioned us both to draw into a Line of Battle, with the Starboard Tacks on board, the Dutch leading the Van. The White Squadron of the French commanded by Tourville, bore down with all imaginable Gallantry on Mr. Ruſſel our Admiral, and the Red; the White and Blue, commanded by Amfrevile on the Dutch, though at ſo great diſtance there was little done on either ſide; and Gabaret with the French Blue Squadron kept ſo far a-Head, that the laſt Twenty Ships of ours a-Stern, had hardly any Body to Fire at, but what was at a great diſtance; the Rear-Admiral of the Blue, who was next the Red, had ſomething to do, but not much; and the Vice-Admiral of the Enemies Blue, who ought to have engaged the ſame Diviſion on our ſide, took Heart-a-grace, and with his whole Diviſion run quite away from the Fleet, without Firing a Gun the whole Day; ſo that the whole Battle fell on the Red on our ſide, attacked by the French White, and aſſiſted by the Rear-Admiral of their Blue: For ſome time of the Day Sir Cloudſley Shovel engaged them of the Blue: It was very hotly diſputed doubtleſs on both ſides, being within Muſquet Shot, pelting ſuch vaſt Quantities of great Shot; but the advantage in leſs than two Hours appeared on our ſide, by the Britannia's ſo handling the Royal Sun, that ſhe lay by an Hour without hardly Firing a Shot. The whole Day there was but a little Gale of Wind, and hindred our Blew Squadron from getting in nearer to Windward of the Enemy; and to add to this Misfortune the whole Day was attended with ſuch a Fog,

that.

that after the firſt two Hours of the Fight, one could ſcarce ſee the next Ship's Head. Juſt in the cloſe of the Evening the French *White, taking the occaſion of the Fogg, and the Flood Tide, and a little Wind, let go their Anchors to facilitate their retreat, and our Blue in the thick Fogg drove through them, which cauſed hot Firing on both ſides, which was at Night ſtopt by the Fogg, the Darkneſs being ſuch that we could not ſee a Ship's length a-Head; and ſo ended this Day with all Honour to the Red, who were engaged very hard, and bravely beat all their Oppoſers; and Admiral* Ruſſel *hath all Honour imaginable due to him, Firſt, in commanding in Chief on ſo Happy a Day; next having almoſt the whole Battle with his Squadron; but in my Opinion chiefly having Hand to Hand ſilenced the beſt Ship of the Enemies in leſs than two Hours time, ſo as to be Fired at without making a Shot. This Gentleman, Monſieur* Tourville, *was handled juſt as he did two years ago the Crippled Dutch. And thus you may ſee what influence inequality of Number has on the beſt of Men; for Monſieur* Tourville, *(brave Enemy) could not move* Amfreville *in the Van hardly to come within a long random Shot, nor Vice-Admiral* Panetir *in the Blue to ſtrike a ſtroke; and indeed Admiral* Gabaret *ſo far kept his diſtance that little could be done by him; yet theſe three Men have particular Characters in* France *for Fighting Men, the two latter, being Soldiers of Fortune, raiſed to their Merit. The* French *will plead doubtleſs that we overnumbred them much; it's true, but by what I ſaw, and am certainly told, they were beaten by equal Number, or leſs; for though I have ſaid they were few in Number, and hardly half fought yet our Red Squadron was not more; and I do not find our Great Number ſtood us in any other ſtead than to frighten their Fighting Ships, which*

gave

gave us a Victory with saving of much Blood, and with destruction of their Ships, which has since happened.

And so, Sir, I have given you the Proceedings of a Happy Day to our Country; but unhappy to my self, who had no share in this Honour, my Post being the very last of the Fleet, on that Tack of the last Twenty Ships of ours, with which the Vice-Admiral of the French *Blue run away, and the rest wearily kept the Wind, so that we had not one Ship to Fire at. The little Wind and very Foggy Weather hindred us from getting up to our Friends.*

Next to our Admiral, Sir Ralph Delaval, *Sir* Cloudsley Shovel, *the* London, *St.* Andrew, Sandwich, *and* Royal Katharine, *have suffered much with loss of Men.*

As I said the whole Fleets coninued driving all Night in a Fogg, without seeing one another: The Morning following the Wind came about to the East, when we all met, both English *and* Dutch, *and pursued the Enemy to the West-ward; about ten a Clock it cleared up, and we saw above Thirty Sail bearing down, who about Noon came to an Anchor with the strong Flood Tide near* Cherbourge; *when the Wind came West, at the Night Flood the* French *got loose, and plyed, and in the Morning were at an Anchor near to* Alderney; *and we without having better ground and less Tide, by Eight a Clock happily found about Twenty Sail of their best Ships to drive to the Eastward along their own Coasts; and when it was fit, our Admiral made the Sign to cut our Cables and follow them, which we did, and Monsieur* Tourville's, *and Two other Three-Deck'd Ships, and Two Frigats run ashore at* Cherbourge, *and were since burnt by Sir* Ralph Delaval: *Thirteen more of their Ships, of which Eight were Three-Deck'd, run into* La Hogue, *near* Cape Barfleur, *and these thirteen are since burnt by Vice-Admiral* Rook, *as Admiral*

Ru-

Ruſſel *commanded, with all their Boats, and ſome Tranſport Ships; five other got away in the Night; Two of Sixty Guns ſunk in the Fight, and one Three-Deck'd Ship burnt by Accident.*

May 28. 1692 I am, Sir, *&c.*

This Account agreeing with our former Advices, and being ſomething more at large, I thought I would not be amiſs to inſert in this place; and ſhall next proceed to mention the Names and Strength of ſuch of the *French* Fleet that have been deſtroyed ſince the beginning of this Great Action, which though they are not all, yet ſo many as are here being true, perhaps it may be ſome ſatisfaction to thoſe that are rejoyced at this Proſperity of their Majeſty's undertaking.

A True

A True List of some of the Ships, and their Names who Commanded them, together with the number of Men, and Guns they carryed, that were destroyed by their Majesties Fleet in the Battle, and pursuit, viz.

	Guns.	*Men.*	*Commanded by*
The Royal Sun *of*	104	900	*Admiral* Tourville
The Admirable *of*	102	650	*by Monſ.* Beaujeau
The Conquerer *of*	82	552	*Monſieur* Du Maignon

These were burnt at Cape *de Wycke* near *Cherborrge*, by Sir *Ralph Delavale.*

	Guns.	*Men.*	*Commanded by*
The Ambitious *of*	96	550	*Vice Admiral* Vilette.
The Thunderer *of*	84	600	*Count* De Relingue.
The Magnificent *of*	76	550	*Monſ.* de Coerlogon
The Triumphant *of*	76	490	*M.*Manch.d'Ablemont
The St. Philip *of*	84	550	*Chevelier* D'Amfreville
The Feirce *of*	76	490	*Monſieur* De Alteloire
The Amiable *of*	68	420	*Monſieur* de Reales
The Arrogant *of*	60	350	*Monſieur* de la Vigiere

These Eight with four more whoſe Names, *&c.* are wanting, were Burnt, and one Overſet in the Bay *la Hogue*, by Vice Admiral *Rooke.*

Admiral *Ruſſel*, who had the high Truſt and Command of the Engliſh Fleet, under their Majeſties, upon which depended the fate of all *Europe*; and of which he has ſo worthily acquited himſelf, and with ſuch inexpreſſable ad-

vantage to the Engliſh Nation in particular, having gain'd this Glorious Succeſs, without the loſs of one of their Majeſties Men of War, or of their Allies the *Dutch*. I ſhall therefore give you a brief account of their Number, Rates, Men and Guns, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, (*viz.* of the *Engliſh*)

Six Firſt Rates, which carry	4615 men	756 Guns.
Ten Second Rates, which carry	6420 men	900 Guns.
Thirty five 3d. Rates which carry	14650 men	2333 Guns.
Thirteen Fourth rates which carry	14650 men	550 Guns.

Beſides theſe there were Twenty three Fireſhips.

The Number of the Men of War were Sixty three, which carried on Board 28570 men and 4489 Guns.

The *Dutch* Squadron conſiſted alſo of

Nine Firſt Rates, carrying	4015 men	769 Guns.
Ten Second Rates, carrying	3765 men	718 Guns.
Nine Third Rates, carrying	2835 men	570 Guns.
Eight Fourth Rates, carrying	1735 men	410 Guns.

Beſides theſe there were to this Squadron fourteen Frigats and Fireſhips: This Squadron was compoſed of thirty ſix Men of War, which carried on Board 12350 men and 2494 Guns.

The total of both the Engliſh Fleet, and Dutch Squadron being Ninty nine Men of War, 40920 Seamen, and 6983 Guns, Friggats and Fireſhips Thirty ſeven, beſides Tenders, Scouts, Spyes and other Boats.

But of theſe ſome of the Engliſh were either not ready, or not all the Dutch Joyned, or were otherwiſe diſpoſed of, for in the Engagement there was not quite Ninty Sale, however ſo many as there were, are ſtill remaining through the mercy of God, and the ſingular Care and Conduct of the Admiral, who being ſafely arrived at *Spithead*, Her Majeſty ordred ſome of the principal Nobility down to Compliment him upon his proſperous Succeſs; and Her Majeſty has made proviſion to give teſtimonies of Her Approba-

Approbation to all the reſt of the Officers of their Fidelity, and Gallantry: And commanded a great ſum of Money to be diſtributed amongſt the Seamen, who behaved themſelves to Admiration. And thus ends the total Defeat of the *French* Fleet, and the moſt conſiderable Action that ever was done on theſe Seas; and earlier in the year then two great Fleets ever fought in the memory of Man. Her Majeſty diſpatched away Expreſſes thereof to the King at his Campe in *Flanders*, who has ſince acquainted his Allies with it, by whom it was recieved with all the Demonſtrations of Joy, and it is hoped this is an earneſt of further Succeſſes to their Majeſties Arms.

FINIS.